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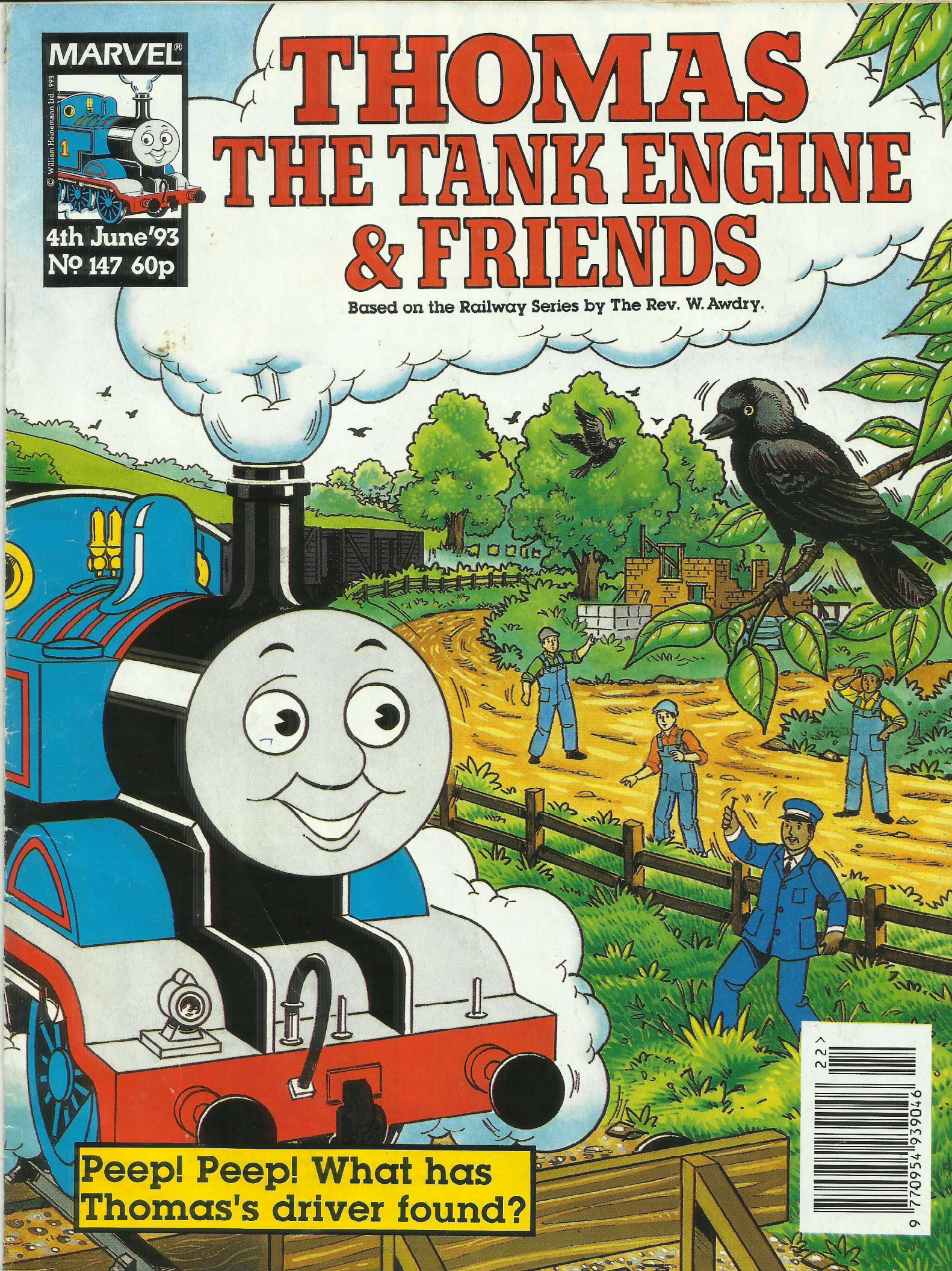
4th June '93
№ 147 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Peep! Peep! What has Thomas's driver found?

9 770954 939046 22

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine and Bertie the Bus are very good friends, and they have enjoyed many exciting adventures together. In the story that begins on page 3, there has been an accident on the Island of Sodor. What will happen to Thomas and Bertie? In our second story, Donald discovers a mysterious light! Peep! Peep!

FABULOUS COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** for your chance to win some superb prizes, courtesy of *Spearmark International Ltd*, including these **Thomas Deluxe Wall Clocks** and **Bedside Lights** featured below!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE AND FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Jim Galton, Chairman. Vincent Conran, Managing Director. Paul Neary, Editorial Director. Office of publication, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.

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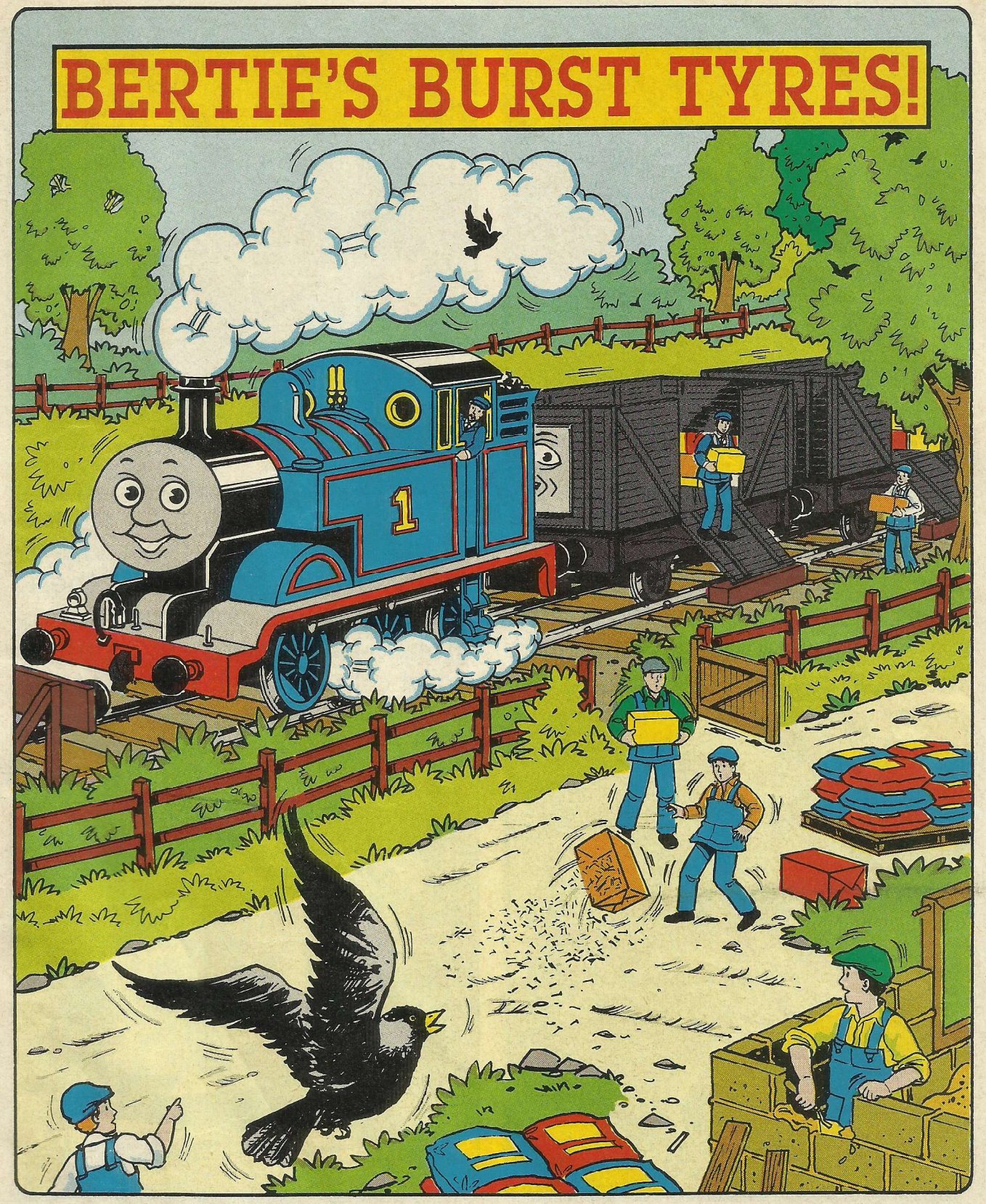
BERTIE'S BURST TYRES!

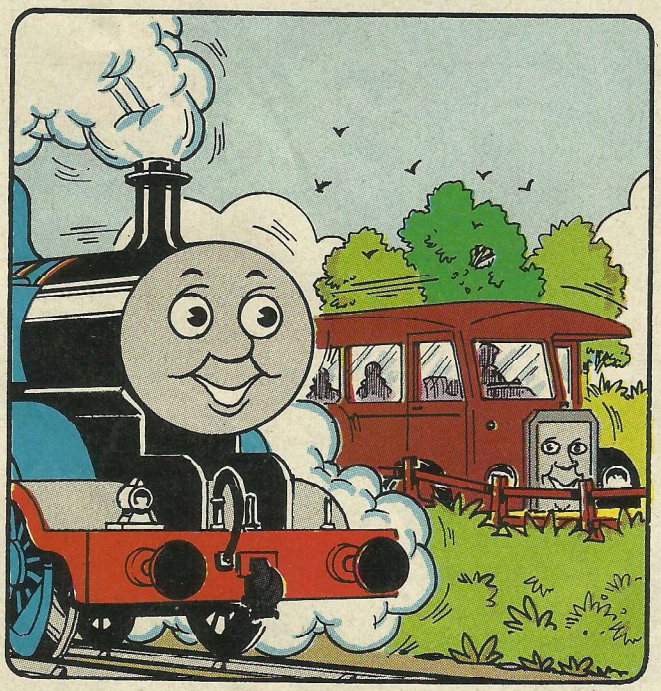


1. Thomas was working hard. He was taking materials to a building site near his branch line. Thomas rolled into a siding. He waited patiently as workmen unloaded his trucks.

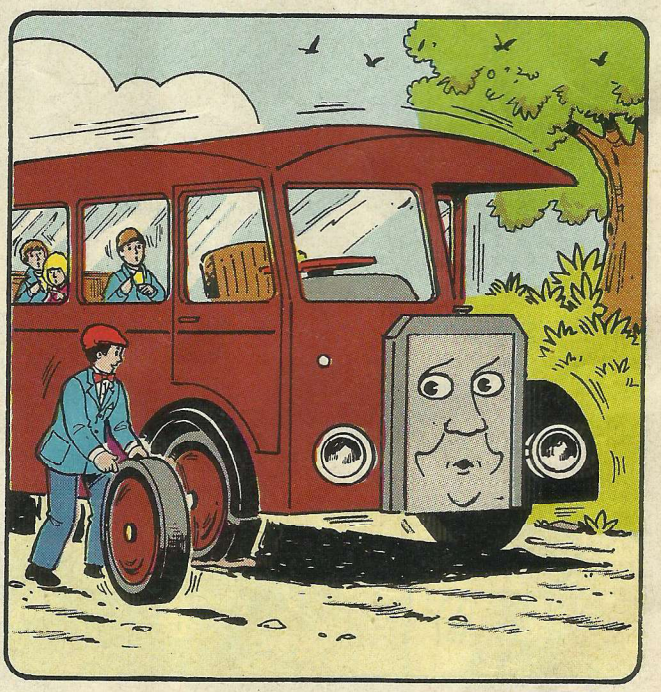
2. While he was waiting, Thomas saw some birds flying around some tall trees, beside a road. "Look out!" called a workman as he dropped a big box onto the road.

3. The box burst open and lots of nails fell out. Thomas's driver and fireman helped to pick them up. "Make sure there are no nails left in the road," said the building site foreman.

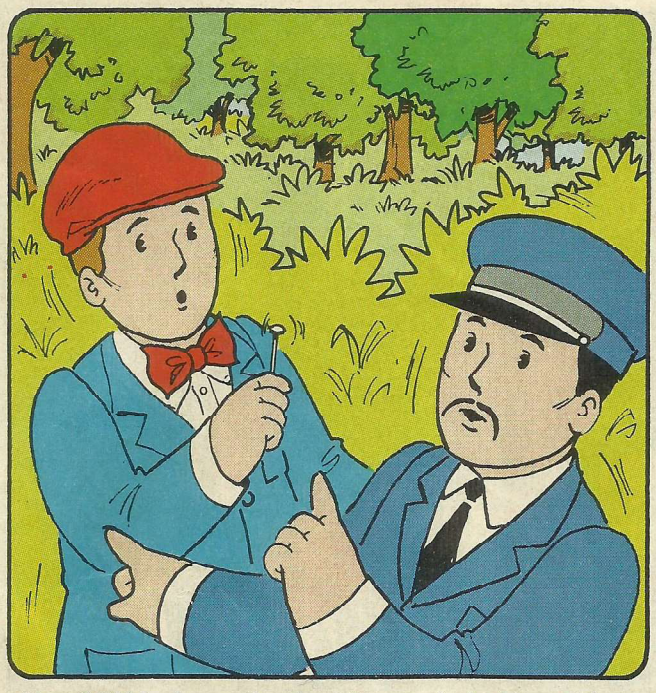
4. There was no traffic, so one of his men swept the road to remove any nails. Just then, Bertie the Bus came motoring along. He slowed and pulled up at a bus stop, by the trees.



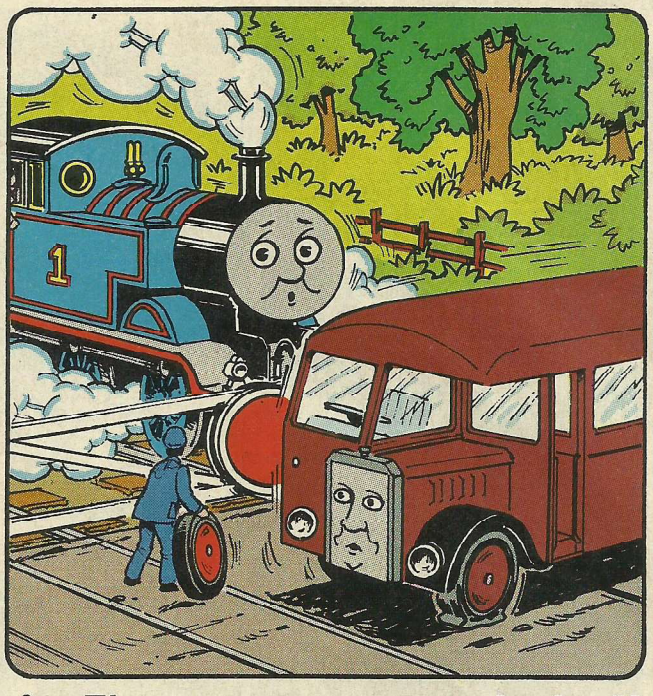
5. While Bertie's passengers got out, Thomas told him about the nails. "They could burst my tyres!" said Bertie. Thomas explained that all the nails had been picked up.



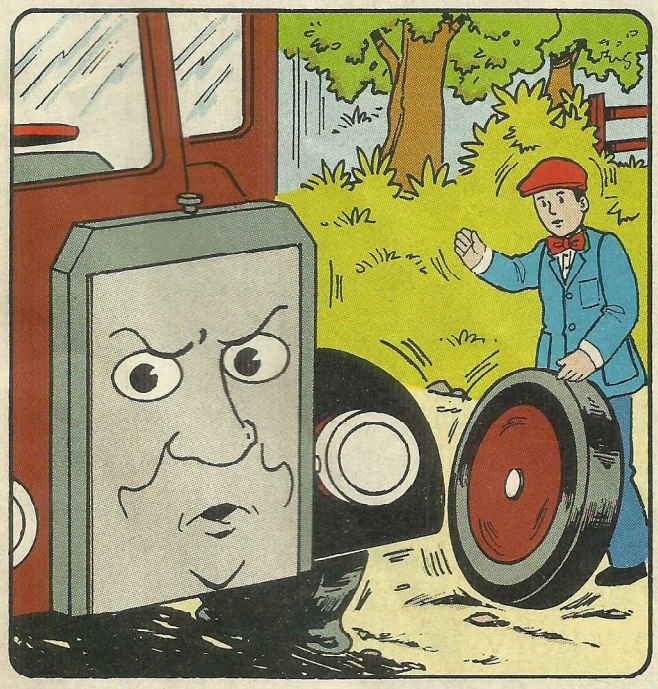
6. Next day, Thomas took more supplies to the building site. As Bertie arrived at the bus stop, his tyre burst. "Oh, no!" grumbled Bertie. His driver had to change the wheel.



7. "I'll be late!" said Bertie. "Buses must run on time, like engines!" His driver pulled a nail out of the flat tyre. "I don't understand how that got there." he said.



8. Thomas was puzzled. "I thought all the nails were removed from the road" he said. When Thomas returned to the building site,he saw Bertie stuck on a level crossing.



9. His driver was changing a wheel again. "I've had a second puncture!" he said. "There was another nail in the road. By the same bus stop!" said Bertie.

10. Thomas puffed on his way to the building site. As he arrived, Thomas saw a bird swoop from the trees. It picked up something shiny from the grass and flew off.

11. When Thomas stopped at the buffers, his trucks clattered noisily. The bird was startled and dropped what it was carrying. Thomas's driver climbed down and went to pick it up. "It's a nail!" he said. "We must have missed a few when the box was dropped!" The driver told the foreman. "Now I know what has happened!" he replied.

12. "The birds in the trees are jackdaws!" said the foreman. "They like to find shiny objects and take them to their nests!" Thomas was pleased the mystery was solved. "Jackdaws dropped the nails that burst Bertie's tyres!" he said. The foreman searched the grass for every last nail. "I'm glad I have metal wheels and can't get punctures!" thought Thomas.

THE END

In our next issue: The new railway!

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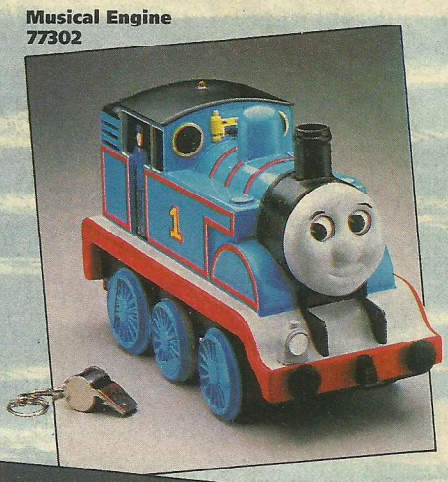

Thomas Remote Control Engine
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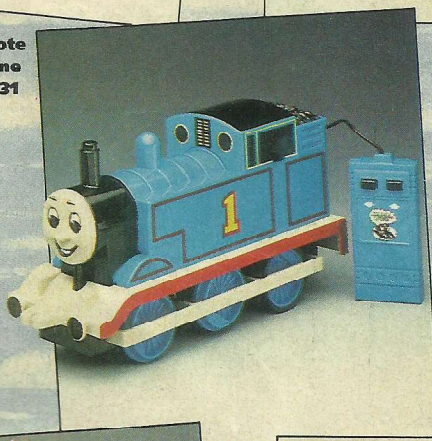
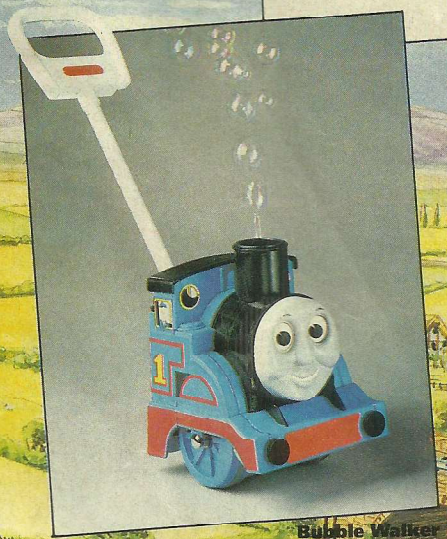


Thomas the Tank Motorised 4082
Percy Motorised
4140



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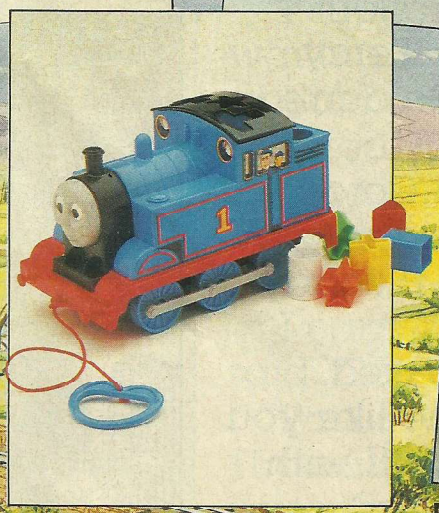

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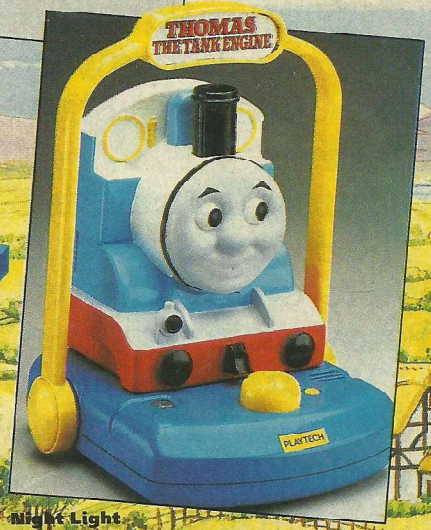

Night Light
77311

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IMPORTANT PASSENGERS!

One morning, Gordon was standing grandly in the yard. He was waiting to be coupled to the Express. The Fat Controller came to see him.

"You are to carry a V.I.P., Gordon!" he said.

"Thank you, sir!" replied Gordon proudly. "You can rely on me! But, sir, usually I carry passengers!" The Fat Controller laughed.

"A V.I.P. is a special passenger," he explained. "It stands for Very Important Person!" Gordon beamed with pride. He was pleased he had been chosen for such a splendid task.

"The V.I.P. is the Mayor, who has a meeting at the Town Hall," said the Fat Controller. "You are to take him to the station nearby!"

As the Fat Controller walked away, Percy arrived with Gordon's coaches.

"Hurry up!" snorted Gordon. "The Express can't be late! We're carrying a V.I.P. today!" Percy looked puzzled.

"What's that?" he asked.

"A little tank engine like you needn't trouble yourself with such important matters," sniffed Gordon. Only a Really Useful Engine knows about V.I.P.s!"

He rolled smoothly out of the yard. Percy was cross.

"What a big-buffers Gordon is!" he puffed. Then Percy saw Thomas shunting some trucks and went to tell him what Gordon had said.

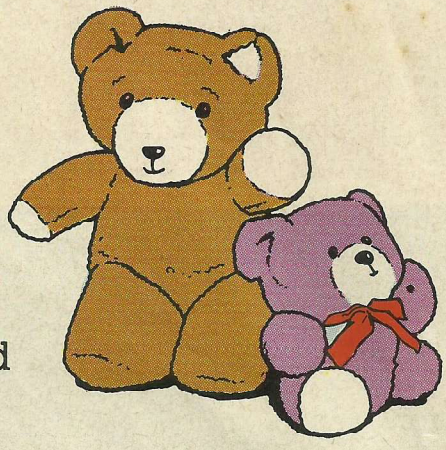
Thomas did not know what a V.I.P. was, either. Duck was returning with a goods train. Thomas and Percy asked him about V.I.P.s but Duck did not have the answer.

Then the Fat Controller spoke to Thomas.

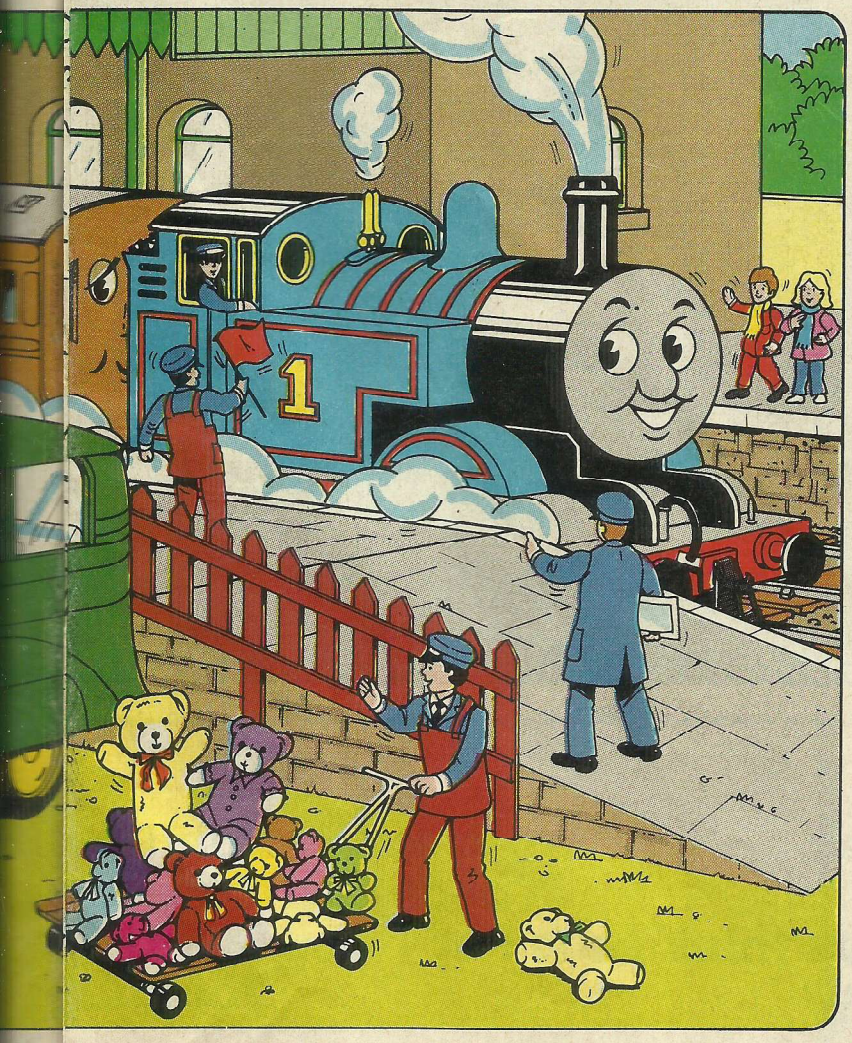
"The owner of a toy factory wants some toys delivered to

the hospital," he said. "He is giving them to the sick children, to cheer them up while they get better!"

Thomas was coupled to his faithful carriages Annie and Clarabel. He steamed on his way to the station near the factory.
When he arrived, the factory owner was there to meet him. His van drivers helped the porters to carry lots of teddy-bears and load them into Clarabel. The guard was to look after them on their journey.
There were big bears, little bears, honey-coloured bears and brown bears.
Thomas had never seen so many.
The toy-bears were lined up, side by side, in Clarabel.



"Gracious!" chuckled Thomas. "I've never carried bear passengers before!" He puffed eagerly to the station near the hospital where the bears were unloaded and collected by the hospital bus.



Later, back at the Main Station yard, Thomas saw Gordon had returned with the Express. He was talking to the other engines.

"I suppose you have all been waiting for me to tell you about the V.I.P. I carried," he boasted. "Any Really Useful Engine knows that a V.I.P. is a Very Important Person!"
Thomas overheard.

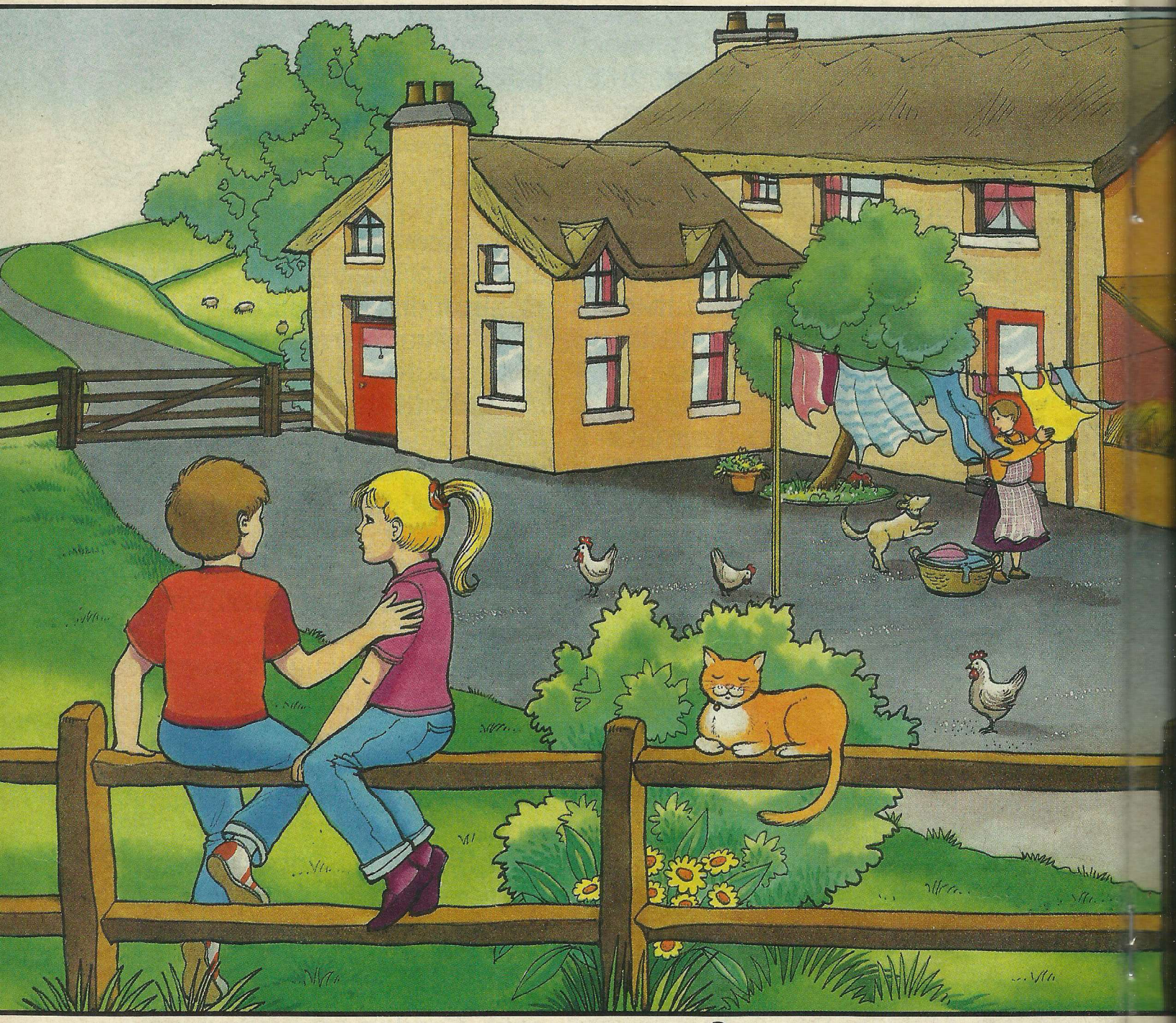
"I carry V.I.B.s, Gordon!" he said. Gordon was surprised.

"Pah! You can't fool me, Thomas!" he huffed. "Besides, you mean V.I.P.s, don't you?"

"No," teased Thomas. "I carried Very Important Bears!"

THE END!

At the far



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What type of engine do you think he is?
Where is he working today?

Point to the
Can you se
How many
Point to the

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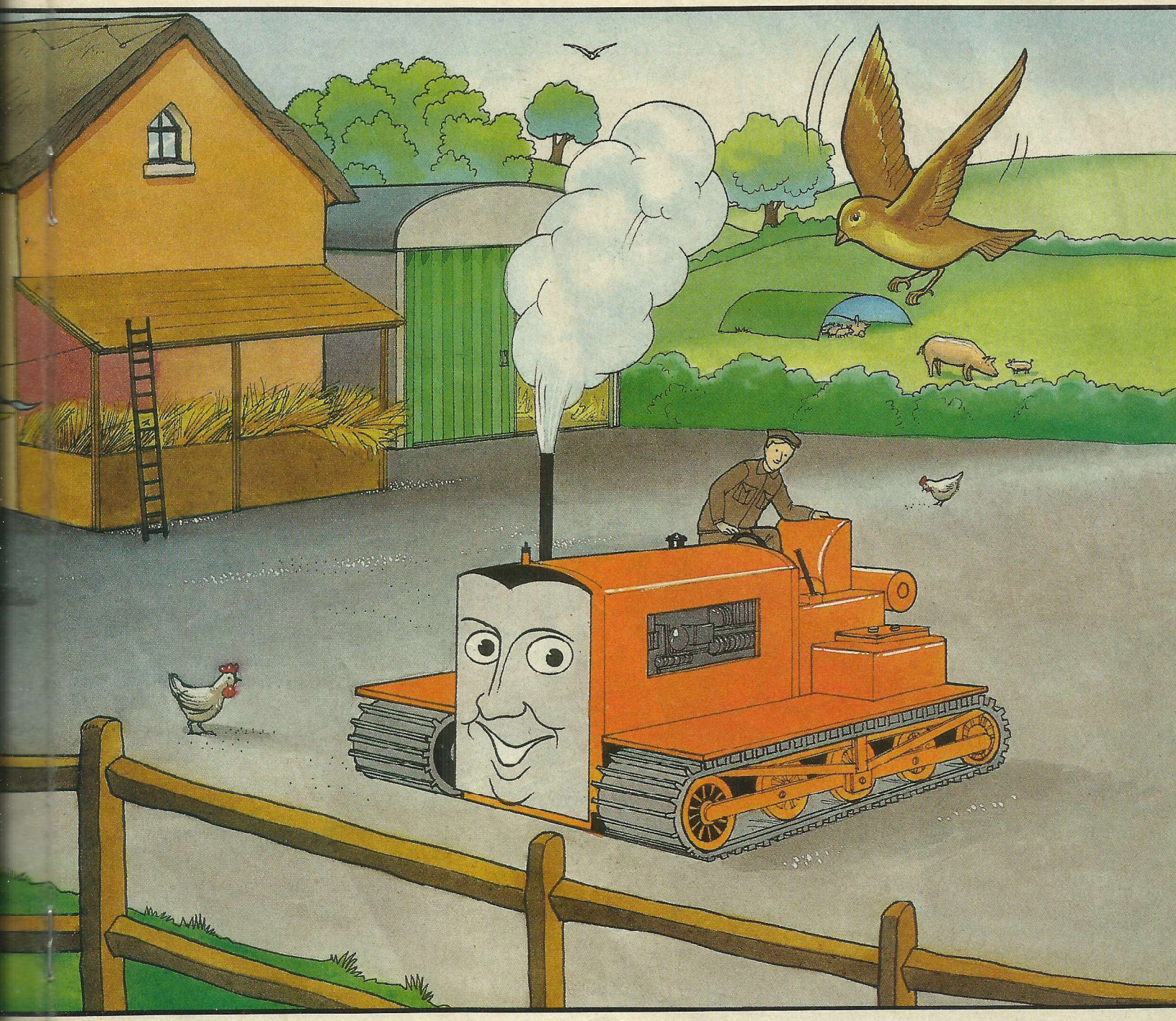


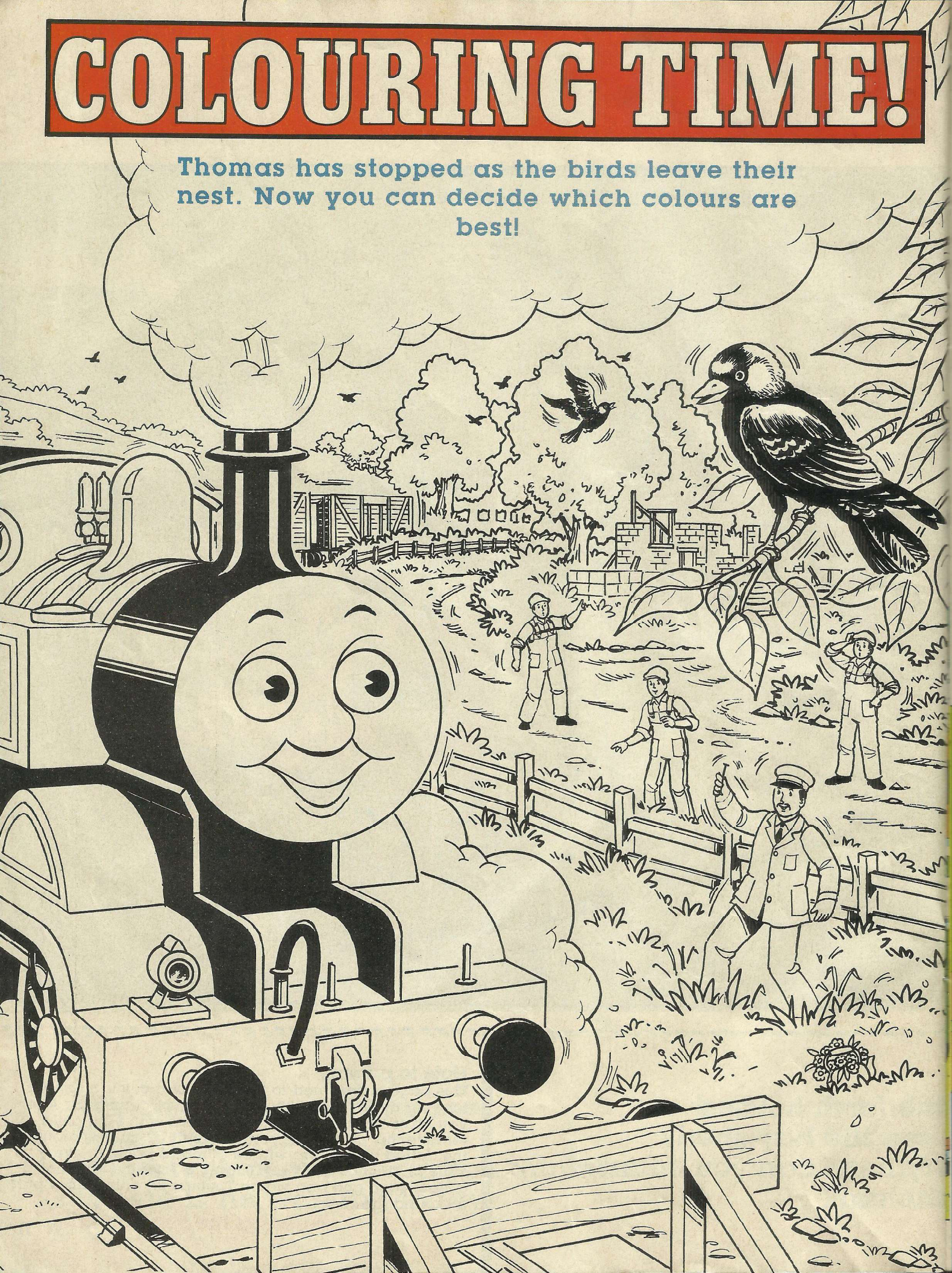
to the farm houses!
ou see the hay shed?
many hens can you count?
to the cat!

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: On the seaside line!

COLOURING TIME!

Thomas has stopped as the birds leave their nest. Now you can decide which colours are best!



JOIN THE DOTS!

What is Edward puffing past? Join the dots and find out fast!

COMPETITION!

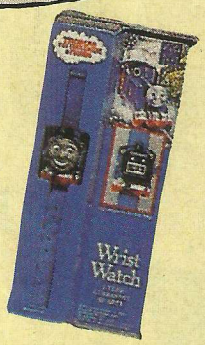
3: 1st prize winners receive a **Thomas Bedroom Set** including a **Bedside Light, Pendant Shade** and **Waste Bin** (see opposite)

10: 2nd prize winners receive a **Thomas Analogue Watch.** (see opposite).

12: 3rd prize winners receive a **Thomas Quartz Alarm Clock.**

12: 4th prize winners will receive a **Deluxe Wall Clock.**

10: 5th prize winners receive a **Thomas 3D Watch.**



How to enter:

You can win one of these prizes when you colour the picture below and send this complete page to; ***Spearmark Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.***

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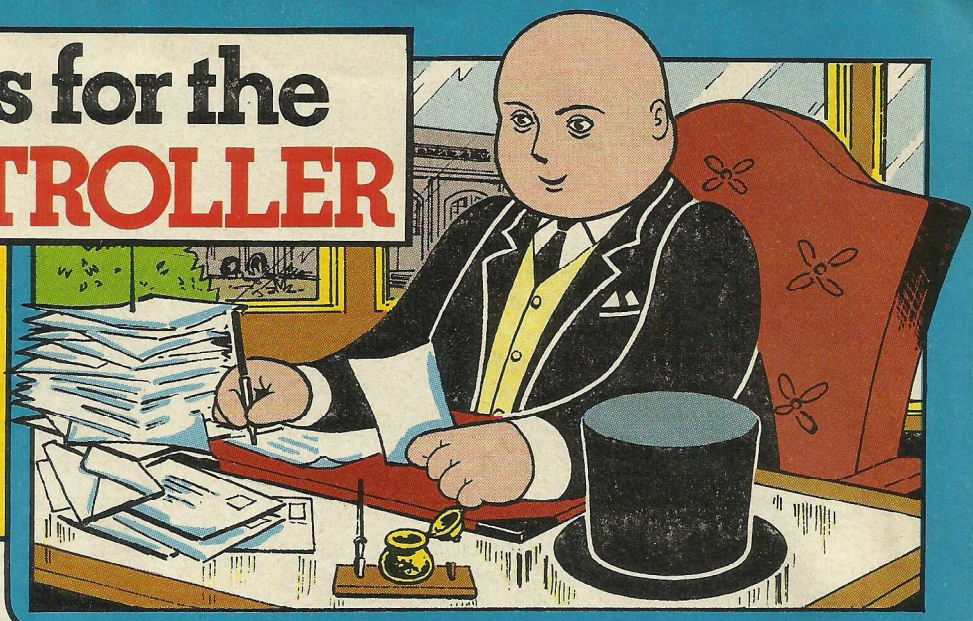
Closing date:June 18th 1993!

Rules: This competition is open to readers other than employees and their families of Spearmark International Ltd., William Heinemann Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd, The Editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite friend of Thomas is Bertie the Bus! When I go out with Mum, we pretend we are travelling on Bertie. I like all the other engines as well!

Love from **Adam**, aged 2.

I do agree! Bertie is also a very good friend to all the engines who work on my railway. He is very helpful and sometimes carries the passengers when an engine breaks down!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I enjoyed the story about **"The Birthday Cake"**! I hope I can meet Stephen and Bridget one day!

Love from **Daryl**.

Yes I do remember that story well. We all had a most enjoyable day and Stephen had a very happy birthday!

FINE RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
We went to the Bluebell Railway at Sheffield Park, Uckfield, Sussex. We travelled to Horsted Keynes and we were pulled by a big steam engine.

Love from **Daniel Dobbs**, aged 4.

The Bluebell Railway is one of the finest steam railways I have ever seen. The Stationmaster has arranged his timetable so that the engines never fail to collect their passengers on time. I also enjoy some of the very scenic views there too!

BIRTHDAYS!

Stuart James Pike, Christopher Jones, Lukas Owens, Mark Nisbet, Sam Darby, Ian Findlayson, Daniel Mc Coach, David Bacchus, Aaron Giles, Edward William Davies, James Andrew Rawcliffe and Sean Hirst.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

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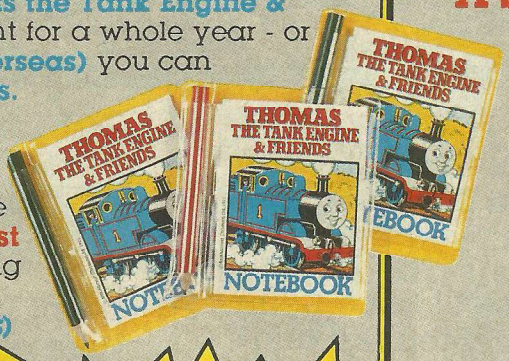

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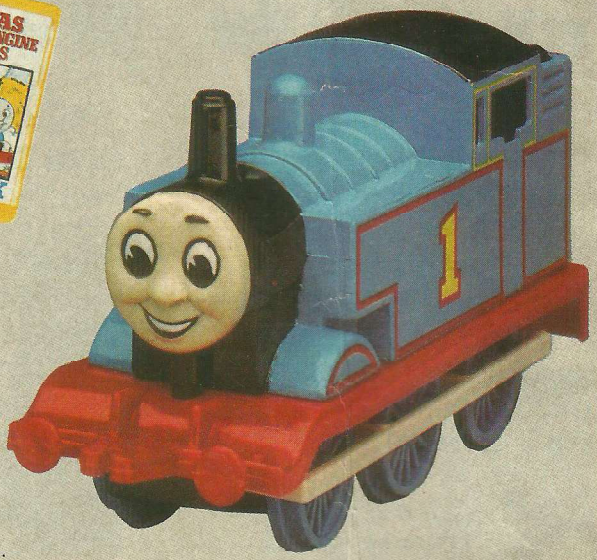
A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!



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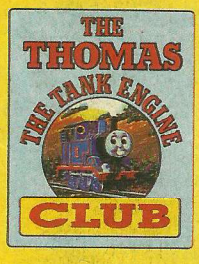

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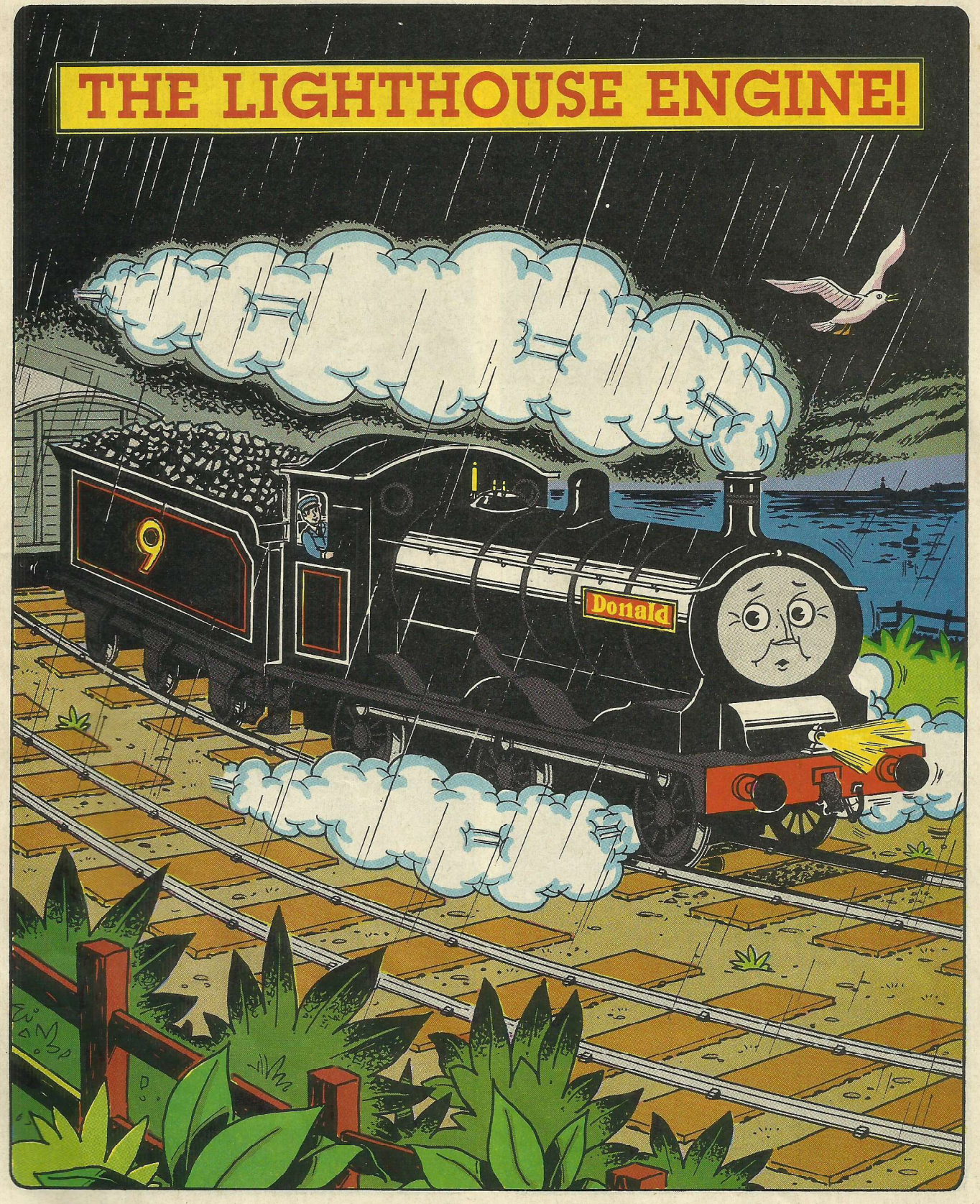
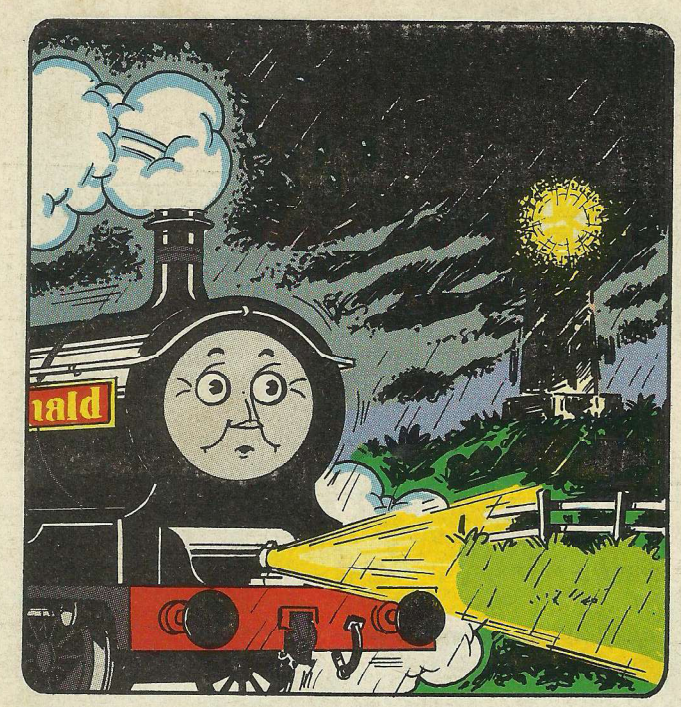
THE LIGHTHOUSE ENGINE!

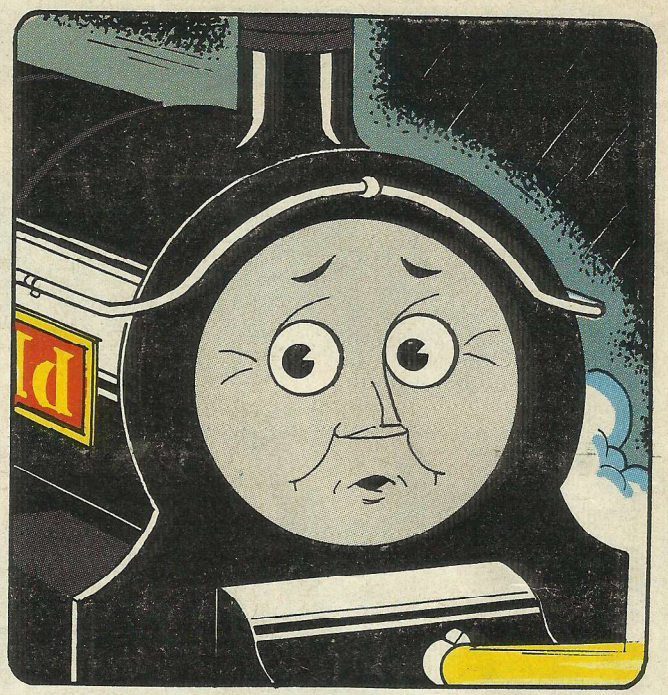


1. Donald and Douglas, the Scottish twins, often work together on the Fat Controller's railway. But, late one night, Donald was sent to collect an urgent goods train on his own.

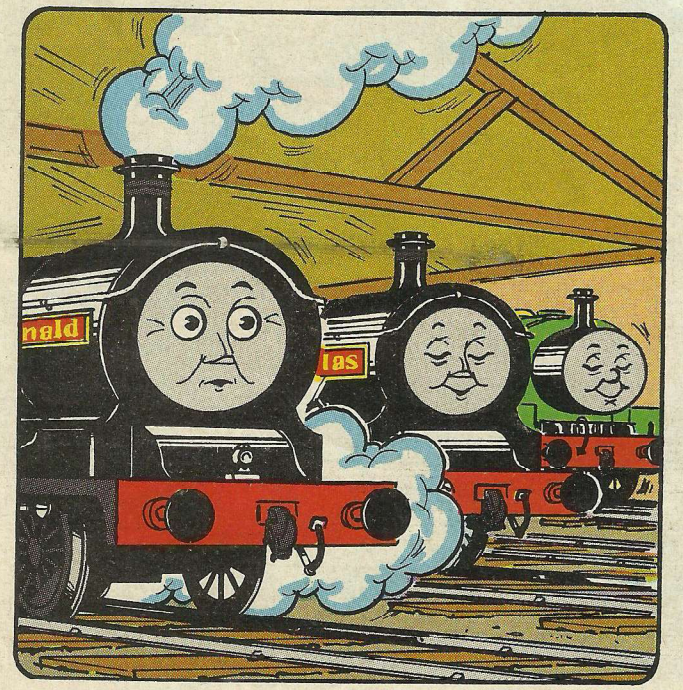
2. Donald visited a station in a faraway part of the Island of Sodor. It was raining as Donald steamed along a branch line, by the coast. "Och! I havna used this track before!" he thought.



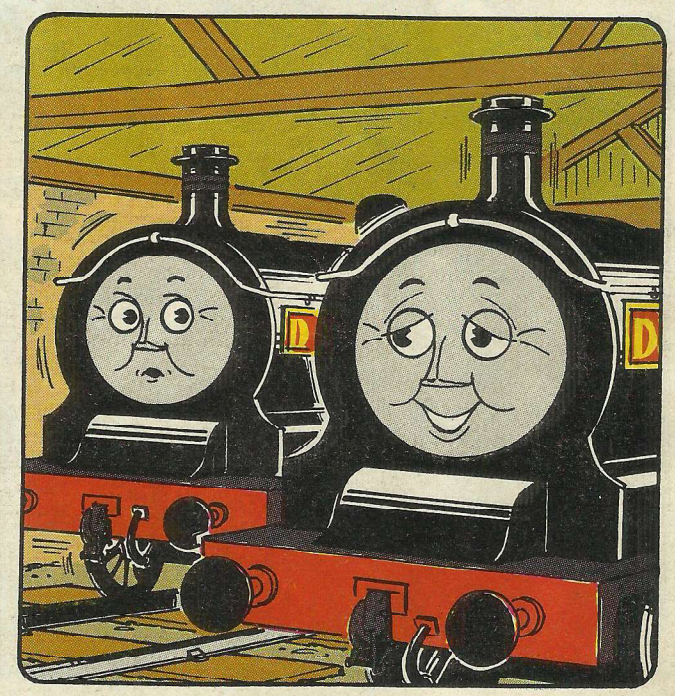
3. It was very lonely and dark. Above the sound of the wind and rain, Donald could hear the roar of the sea. Suddenly, near the cliff top, he saw a mysterious flashing light in the darkness.



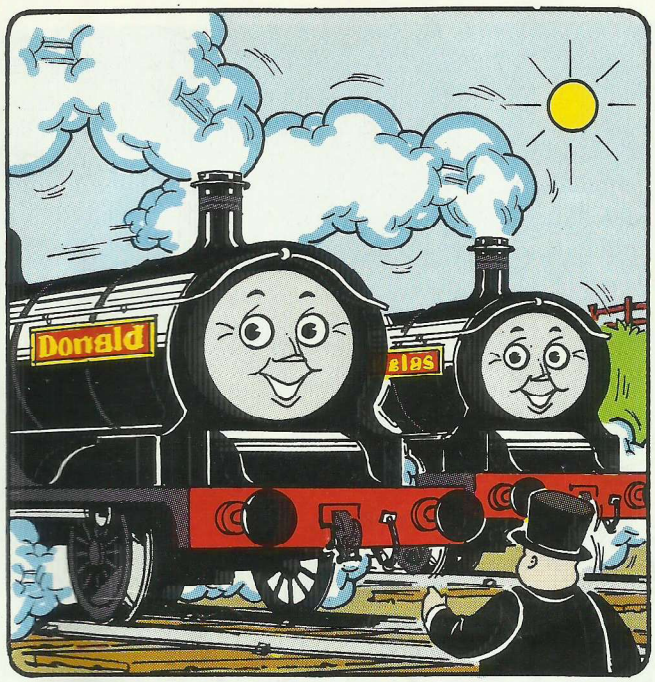
4. Donald peered hard but could not discover where the light was coming from. "There's only me aboot!" he gasped nervously. "Tis a ghost light! It's enough tae make ma wheels wobble!"



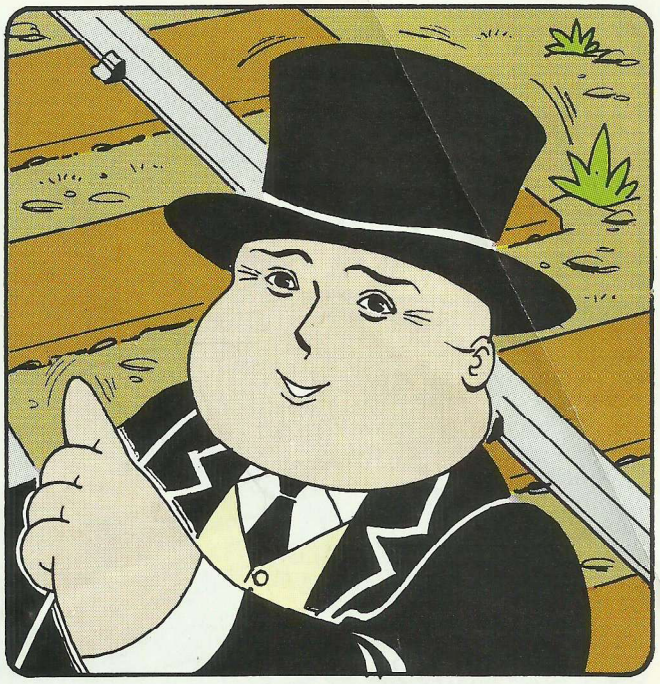
5. Donald puffed on his way, pulling the trucks as fast as he could go. At last, he returned to the Main Station. Wearily, Donald rolled into the engine shed, beside Douglas.



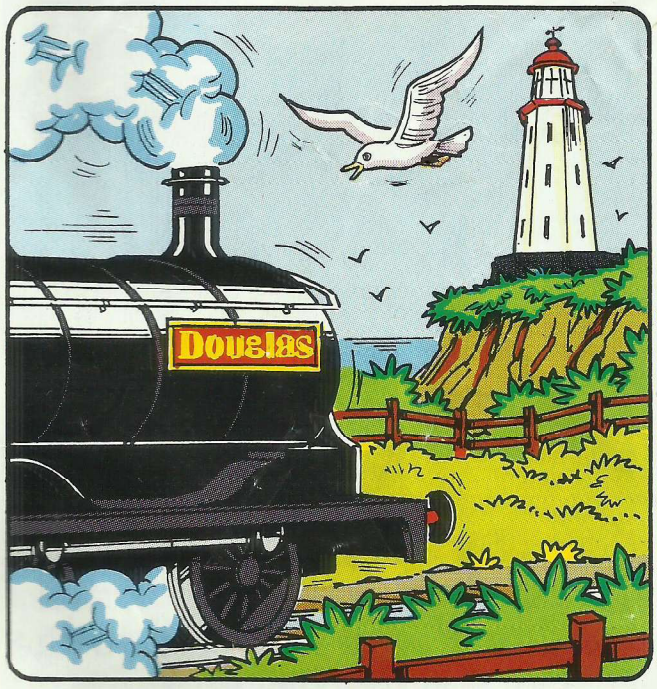
6. "Wake up, Douglas!" Donald whispered. Douglas opened his eyes and yawned. "What's the matter?" he asked. "A ghost light is what's the matter!" said Donald, who explained.



7. Next morning, as Donald and Douglas chuffed into the yard, the sun shone brightly. Now Donald wondered if he had imagined the strange light on the cliff, the night before.



8. The Fat Controller came to see the Scottish twins. "There's another goods train to collect from the same station that Donald visited," he told them. This time, he sent Douglas.



9. Soon Douglas raced along the coastal line. On the cliff top, he saw a tall, thin building. Douglas was puzzled. He asked his driver what it was. "That's the lighthouse!" he replied.

10. "The lantern at the top shines at night to keep ships safe," the driver continued. "It warns them that there are rocks in the sea below, so the ships will take care not to go too near them!"

11. Then they saw the lighthouse keeper waving urgently and Douglas slowed down."The lighthouse lantern has broken," he shouted to the driver. "If there's no flashing light tonight to warn the ships to stay away from the rocks, they will be in grave danger." Douglas quickly steamed on to the Main Station and his driver told the Fat Controller.

12. Douglas explained to Donald about the lighthouse. "It's nae ghost light," he said. The Fat Controller had an idea. He had Donald fitted with a big flashing headlamp and sent him to the clifftop. Donald pulled up with his lamp shining out to sea. "That will keep the ships safe tonight," said his driver. "It's fun to be a lighthouse engine," puffed Donald.

THE END!

In our next issue: Toby and the statue!